Small Scale Sleeper Manufacturing Industries

1076. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of small scale sleeper manufacturing industries with huge work force, operating in backward tribal areas like Santhal Pargana of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, etc. are running on the Railway Ministry's orders;

(b) whether a large number of such factories have been starved of orders for the last two years, landing a huge work force on brink of starvation;

(c) how far these factories have worked below capacity during these years; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure regular orders to keep these factories going?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir, 68 (sixty-eight) concrete sleeper manufacturing factories are set up in different parts of the country including Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.

(b) to (d) Railways place orders on these firms based on competitive offers received, requirement of sleepers and availability of funds.

Change in Arrival/Departure Points of Mussorie Express and Ranikhet Express

†1077. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of people belonging to Garhwal are working in Mumbai;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Delhi bound trains from Mumbai arrive at New Delhi Railway Station, while Mussorie Express and Ranikhet Express trains for Garhwal areas leave from Old Delhi Railway Station; and

(c) if so, whether Government would ensure arrival of any of above trains at Old Delhi Railway Station, instead of New Delhi Railway Station, or the departure of Mussorie Express or Ranikhet Express from New Delhi,

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.